



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHIL ANGELIDES

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TREASURER ANGELIDES KICKS OFF STATEWIDE TOUR TO PROTECT CRITICAL ROLE OF CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION CAMPUSES IN STATE'S ECONOMY

*Two-Day Tour Visits San Diego City College, as Governor Schwarzenegger Proposes to
Slash Funding, Hike Tuition, and Cut Financial Aid*

SAN DIEGO – California State Treasurer Phil Angelides today kicked off a two-day statewide tour to protect the critical role of California's world-renowned public higher education system in the State's economy, by visiting San Diego City College. The Treasurer will be visiting University of California (UC), California State University (CSU) and California Community College campuses from Chico to San Diego on Tuesday and Wednesday, highlighting the diversity and accomplishments of various research, educational, and training programs at six different schools, and how the programs contribute to California's economic competitiveness and the State's leading role in the global economy.

The Treasurer's tour comes in the wake of the release of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's recent budget that proposes deep cuts in state funding, steep tuition hikes, reduced enrollment, and cuts in financial aid for higher education across the State.

"As Treasurer, my first priority must be to protect our economy today, and build our economy for tomorrow," Angelides said. "I believe we need to burnish the crown jewel that is this State's higher education system, not break it down into shards. Unfortunately, the Governor's budget would shatter California's historic commitment to its public colleges and universities. We must fight to protect and increase investments in these institutions, as they will be our ticket to economic progress in the decades ahead, just as they were in the last half of the 20th century."

The second stop on Angelides' statewide tour was San Diego City College (SDCC), where he met with SDCC administrators, and faculty and students of the school's award-winning Math, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) program. MESA is a UC-affiliated program that assists community college students studying these fields, and helps prepare them to transfer to four-year institutions.

The Treasurer also visited a class in SDCC's Electronic Test Technician program, one of several non-credit (i.e. fee-free) programs offered by SDCC, which has the largest non-credit occupational training program in the State. The eight-month intensive Electronic Test Technician program trains students for entry-level jobs in high-tech industries. Most students in the College's non-credit programs are adults seeking alternative career paths.

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In meeting with SDCC students, faculty and administrators, the Treasurer said, “San Diego Community College and other community colleges offer hundreds of thousands of students across the state the training they will need to be a part of the 21st century economy. We are here today fighting for the UC, CSU and Community College systems because of the leading role they play in our State’s and nation’s economic competitiveness, and the opportunity they offer to those who would otherwise would not have access to higher education.”

Governor Schwarzenegger on January 9 proposed more than \$700 million in cuts for California’s higher education institutions, including complete elimination of state support for UC and CSU outreach programs such as MESA. The Schwarzenegger Administration also proposes to hike student fees at UC, CSU and California Community Colleges, including a 40 percent increase in graduate student fees at UC and CSU (see attached summary of proposed budget impacts).

With community colleges already financially strapped, any cut in state subsidies is likely to threaten non-credit programs such as the Electronic Test Technician program at SDCC. These programs already receive only half the state funding of credit programs. Eliminating these programs could force students – who tend to be more ethnically diverse and have more financial need than other community college students – into credit programs that they simply cannot afford. At the same time, Governor Schwarzenegger’s proposed budget would hike fees in credit programs by 44 percent and reduce financial assistance to students.

Angelides’ visit to SDCC today was the second of six stops planned across the State on Tuesday and Wednesday, where the Treasurer will be visiting UC, CSU, and California Community College campuses up and down the State. Earlier today, the Treasurer toured UCLA’s Center for Embedded Networked Sensing, and later today he was to visit CSU-Fresno’s Viticulture and Enology Research Center. On Wednesday, the Treasurer is expected to visit with students, teachers and administrators at CSU-Sacramento’s College of Education, UC- San Francisco’s Mission Bay Campus, and CSU-Chico’s School of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology.

For more information about this and other stops on the two-day tour, please contact Communications Director Mitchel Benson at (916) 653-4052.

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IMPACTS OF GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER'S BUDGET ON CALIFORNIA'S PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Governor Schwarzenegger's proposed budget will have a dramatic, negative impact on the University of California, California State University, and California Community College systems. According to the non-partisan Legislative Analyst, the Governor's Budget "includes over \$700 million in reductions in higher education."

Here are some of the specific impacts of the Governor's budget proposal:

Cuts in Funding

- Reduces UC research funding by five percent (\$11.6 million)
- Eliminates General Fund support for the UC Digital California Project, which provides access for K-12 school districts to the Internet (\$14.3 million)
- Eliminates General Fund support for UC and CSU outreach programs (\$110 million)
- Increases student-to-faculty ratios by five percent (\$88.7 million)
- Makes unallocated funding reductions, which could lead to, among other things, a loss of course sections (\$98 million for UC and CSU over two years)

Higher Fees and Tuition

- Hikes undergraduate fees at UC and CSU by 10 percent (UC: from \$4,985 to 5,482; CSU: from \$2,046 to \$2,251)
- Hikes fees for graduate students at UC and CSU by 40 percent (UC: from \$5,219 to \$7,307; CSU: from \$2,256 to \$3,158)
- Hikes fees for Community College students by 44 percent (\$18 to \$26 per unit)

Reductions in Enrollment

- The budget proposes to reduce the enrollment at both UC and CSU. 8,200 students will be turned away at UC, and 13,800 will be turned away at CSU.

Cuts in Financial Aid

- The budget reduces eligibility for Cal Grants for middle-income families by reducing the family income threshold by 10 percent (For Cal Grant A, from \$67,000 to \$60,840 for a family of four).
- Reduces amount of UC and CSU fee revenue allocated to financial aid from one-third of fee revenues to 20 percent.
- Provides no increase in Cal Grant awards to reflect increase in fees at UC and CSU.